XXVIII. *Two Medical Observations by Dr.* Joseph Benevuti, *Physician at* Lucca; *communicated to the late President of the Royal Society, by Dr.* Ch. Allioni *of* Turin, *F. R. S. and translated from the* Latin *by* Daniel Peter Layard, *M. D. Physician to her Royal Highness the Princess Dowager of* Wales, *Member of the Royal College of Physicians in* London, *and of the Royal Societies of* London *and* Gottingen.

I. *Of a sick Man surprizingly recovered from a Fever.*

Read June 9, 1768. A MAN forty years of age, named Angelus Amadei, of a plethoric constitution, and of a low size, having a malignant fever, began on the ninth day to grow delirious, and continued so during the tenth night; when, several bad symptoms appearing, it was thought he must die soon. Early on the eleventh day in the morning, he bid the by-standers quit his room, and expressed a desire of going to sleep; his friends were unwilling to withdraw, unless they first stripped him of his shirt, and dried him of the sweat he was in. But the patient refusing, and at last growing angry, they were obliged to yield to his will. About an hour after, a woman went into the bed-room, and not finding

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finding the man, ſhe called the ſervants, who ſearched the houſe, and the well, into which they feared he had thrown himſelf; but to no purpoſe. In the mean time a rumour ſpread, as is uſual in ſuch caſes, that this had happened, either by the interpoſition of the devil, or by a miracle.

The keeper of the baths at Lucca gave orders for every body to make a diligent ſearch; and on the third day the ſick man was at laſt found in a vineyard, about two miles from his houſe, hidden in a hut, where, he ſaid, that the day before, he with great aſtoniſhment found himſelf, without at all knowing how he came there. It ſeemed to me, that he muſt have got down by the window of the bed-chamber, which was not far from the ground. What ſeems moſt extraordinary is, that, in order to quench his thirſt, this man ſwallowed a large quantity of ſnow (with which the earth was covered, it being in the winter); and that neither this ſort of drink, nor the cold air, did in the leaſt affect him; for though he had gone away from home all in a ſweat, and with no other covering than his ſhirt, yet he was freed from his fever, and is now reſtored to his former health.

II. *Of an extraordinary great Head.*

Not long ſince, I went to Benabii, a town ſituated in the territory of Lucca, to ſee a man, whoſe head, I had heard, was much larger than is uſual. The ſame curioſity procured me the honour of attending at the ſame place on Princeſs Lambertini, niece to Pope Benedict the XIVth, whoſe health I had the care of, while ſhe drank the water of our baths.

I ſaw

I ſaw a man, thirty years of age, and yet of the ſize of a boy ſeven years old, who was ſitting on a couch ſeat, with his head (which indeed was quite out of ſize) inclined on the right ſide, and reſting on a pillow; which, when he wanted to move, he ſupported with his hands, as it lay on a very ſmall neck. This man had enjoyed a good health till he was ſix years old; he then had a diarrhœa, which laſted nine months, and, upon its ſtopping, his lower extremities were ſeized with the palſy, and loſt their motion, but their feeling remained. From that time his head increaſed yearly, together with his face, noſe, ears, eyes, mouth, &c. but the remainder of his body did not grow at all. The circumference of his ſcalp meaſured thirty ſeven inches, and eight lines, Engliſh meaſure. The length of his face was twelve inches and three lines. Theſe meaſures were taken by the ſaid princeſs and ſeveral of her attendants. This man eats greedily, ſleeps well, but diſcharges his *fæces* and his urine involuntarily. The ſtrength which he has in his hands is very ſurprizing, being ſuch, that it is difficult for any perſon to get looſe from him, when once he holds faſt. He is beſides quick as to his underſtanding, he talks, and has a good memory; ſeldom or never forgetting what he may have read in books.